

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS FROM THE MAMMAL SURVEY.

No. XXIX.

A RENAMING OF "*Mungos mungo ellioti*", WROUGHTON.

BY THE LATE R. C. WROUGHTON.

In 1915, when sorting out the races of the Common Indian Mongoose, *Herpestes edwardsi*, at that time known as *Mungos mungo*, I gave to the Dharwar form the name of *Mungos mungo ellioti*.*

But it has now been pointed out to me that in 1851† Blyth applied the name of *Herpestes ellioti*, to a Mongoose of the *H. smithii* group from South India, thus invalidating my use of the term.

Using the revised generic and specific names for the Common Mongoose, I would propose for the Dharwar race the name of *Herpestes edwardsi carnaticus*, with the same type specimen, B. M. No. 12, 6. 29, 44.

No. XXX.

THE MUNGOUSES OF THE *Herpestes smithii* GROUP.

BY OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.R.S.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

During the course of the Survey a certain number of Mongooses have come which have been referred to *Herpestes smithii*, but they exhibit such a range of variation that I have thought it worth while to lay out all the available series, in order to see how far the variation is geographical.

The result proves highly interesting, as I find there are no less than five definable geographical races, which may all be considered as subspecies of *H. smithii*.

With regard to the names, we may first take in rotation those given in Blanford's Synonymy of *H. smithii*. Detailed references will be found in his work.

Herpestes smithii, Gray, 1837. Type in British Museum. No locality, but the type closely agrees with specimens from the Bombay region.

Herpestes thysanurus, Wagn., 1839. Said to be from Kashmir. Far too small to be a member of this group at all. No Mongoose with a black tip to the tail has been found in Kashmir, and it is probable there was some mistake as to the locality. An African Mongoose of the *H. gracillis* group would better fit the description.

Crossarchus rubiginosus, Wagn., 1841. Clearly not an *H. smithii* at all, but synonymous with *H. vitticollis*.

* Journal, B. N. H. S., xxvi, p. 52, 1915.

† J. A. S. B., xx, p. 162, 1851.